

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division, the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

Waiting for the link ...



Staff Sgt. Micheal Bachellor from 1/41 FA prepares the latch on the sling as Staff Sgt. Jeff Emrick of 3/69 Armor and Spc. Aaron Montgomery, a 2/3 Aviation Regiment crew chief make sure the rest of the sling is secure.

FS/HAAF substance abuse program tops in DoD

Spc. Robert J. Adams
50th PAD

The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Substance Abuse Program received the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness award Monday during the opening ceremonies of the 14th annual “Red Ribbon Week” at the Pentagon for being the top Army program.

This is the the second year in a row the post has won this award which is presented to each service and one National Guard unit that exemplifies the department's best efforts to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles to Soldiers, families and the surrounding communities.

We have the best program in the Army and we strive to be the best we can to support our country,” said Abigail Mujica, alcohol & drug control officer.

Since 1990, the Secretary of Defense has recognized Red Ribbon Week to acknowledge the department's community drug awareness efforts.

The Stewart and Hunter ASAP program motto is “3rd Infantry Division: Mobilizing a Drug-Free Fighting Force” and the goal is to maintain a lean, mean fighting machine by establishing a comprehensive and community wide education program designed to reduce the occurrence of drug and alcohol abuse, according to the submission memoran-

dum.

“The ASAP program conducts prevention, identification and education classes within units, schools, and the community,” Mujica said. It also provides and teaches how to give urinalysis tests for Soldiers and civilians and processes the results.

The subprograms that ASAP has implemented on post are biochemical testing, youth drug prevention and education, a healthy workplace initiative, the DUI free Award and DUI Free Charter, and a community block party.

Over the past two years the prevention and biochemical ASAP program has also worked hard to prepare the division, National Guard and Army Reserve units for pre-deployment and post-deployment.

“Due to the number of units that have come through Fort Stewart for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the ASAP team has had to perform over two times as many unit urinalysis tests,” said Archie McNeill, installation biochemical testing coordinator.

There have been many key figures that make this program work on both Stewart and Hunter to include: Chuck Moss, Tia Garrett, Kathy Waites, Barry Graham, Chon Brown, Theodore Shannon, and Donald Wright.

“Everybody has carried an additional

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BRAC '05 to support DoD transformation

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The 2005 base realignment and closure initiative will be different from previous rounds in that it will directly contribute to DoD's transformation efforts, a top DoD official said here Oct. 25.

BRACs conducted between 1988 and 1995 closed 97 military bases and realigned 57, Raymond DuBois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment,

told attendees at the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting here. Officials today estimate the department still carries about 23 percent excess infrastructure.

The 2005 BRAC will be unique in that besides paring no-longer-needed facilities, it will also support transformation goals, thereby making DoD better prepared for combating 21st century threats like global terrorism, DuBois observed.

A key component of 2005 BRAC consideration, he

explained, involves weighing an installation's military value in view of how it contributes to and accommodates joint operations. Joint warfighting has proven to be the coin of the realm when confronting terrorists in Afghanistan and Iraq, he said.

In the post-Cold War world, “the U.S. Army must own speed and surprise,” DuBois said, noting that multiservice cooperation in the transportation field in recent years has

See BRAC, Page 7A

MPs teach, learn in Diyala

Sgt. Kimberly Snow
196th MPAD

DIYALA PROVINCIAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BA'QUBAH, Iraq —Sgt. Jon H. Fouts sat talking on the telephone from a small desk on the second floor of the Diyala Province Police Headquarters, having placed a morale call home to his wife, when an explosion rocked the building.

“I quickly told my wife ‘Gotta go!’ and hung up, which left her in a panic,” he said. “I jumped up and took about two steps toward the hallway, I guess out of curiosity to see what the explosion was,” he said. “Right at that point the round came out of the ceiling and literally was doing a spinning dance and bouncing against the wall at my feet.”

Although that day will be one neither he nor his wife will every forget, there have been other dangerous and exciting moments protecting a vital joint U.S.-Iraqi operation in the heart of Ba’qubah.

Fouts, an artilleryman from the New

Hampshire Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment lives and works at the provincial police headquarters — a building scarred from numerous RPG and rocket attacks - along with the rest of his unit. They were retrained at their mobilization station at Fort Dix, New Jersey and re-designated the 2-197th Military Police Company before deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The artillerymen-turned-Military Police Officers share their duties, as well as their living space, with active duty Military Police Officers from 4th platoon, 293rd MP Company out of Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Their primary focus is maintaining and protecting the Diyala Province Joint Coordination Center co-located there. They also run a police academy, which includes a police basic training course and Transitional Integration Program (TIP), provide oversight for the police station and jail, and work




See MPs, Page 7A



An MP with 2-197th Military Police Company works to protect the Diyala Province Joint Coordination Center in Ba’Qubah, Iraq.

Courtesy photo

Weather Forecast

FRI		
High		Low
79°		63°
SAT		
High		Low
83°		64°
SUN		
High		Low
84°		64°

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Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

A Chinook crew chief look out at an almost vertical horizon as the aircraft banks hard to the side. The Soldier is tethered in by a safety line attached to the wall as is common for all members of a helicopter flight crews who are not sitting in a seat with safety restraints.

Sling it, hook it , take it away

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

1st Bde.

Five Soldiers from Fort Lee, Va. Came to Fort Stewart to certify a select group of Soldiers for the sling load inspection certification course.

We are the only five individuals in the Army who teach this course, so we travel around a lot," said Staff Sgt. Darral Bethea, one of the five SLICC instructors. "We try to focus on safety. The purpose is to get these Soldiers certified so they can move supplies and materials at a much quicker rate than they would be able to by a ground vehicle."

The course involved safety techniques and figuring out load plans to load everything from supplies to vehicles onto a helicopter by attaching them with a sling to a hook on the bottom of the aircraft.

"I thought the course was really good, because the instructors made sure you understood all the material presented,"

said Spc. Berenice Silva, a 632nd Maintenance Company administrative specialist. "They really focused on our safety, and if there was anything I didn't totally get, the instructors made sure they stayed afterwards to help you through it. I had a hard time with some of the material, but when the day came to actually sling load vehicles, I was very confident thanks to them."

All the tasks the Soldier had to complete were done on a timed basis.

"We were timed, so we had to hurry, but at the same time you had to concentrate and do them right, so you couldn't really think about the time," Silva said.

Soldiers were chosen from different companies and units from throughout the 3rd Infantry Division and Stewart Garrison to participate in the certification exercise.

"We had a lot of fun training the Soldiers," Bethea said. "Now we have to get on a plane and go somewhere else to train the next group of Soldiers."



(Above) From left to right, Spc. Todd McKenna, a 3/7 Cav. tank gunner receives instructions from Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Grobarcik, a sling load instructor, while Sgt. Richard Jacob prepares to attach the sling to a Blackhawk.

(Bottom) From left to right, Emrick, Bachellor and Montgomery wait to approach a vehicle to attach a sling.



(Top) A sling load instructor watches on as a Soldier give a Blackhawk hand signals to aid with lining up the aircraft with the vehicle below it.

(Bottom) Staff Sgt. Michael Bachellor secures two ropes on a sling before attaching it to a helicopter to keep the ropes from swinging around.



Flu vaccine limited this season

Laurie Kemp
Winn Public Affairs Officer

Influenza vaccinations on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will be limited to deploying soldiers, high risk beneficiaries and their contacts this season due to the national shortage of flu vaccine.

On Oct. 5, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was notified by Chiron Corporation that none of its influenza vaccine (Fluvirin®) would be available for distribution in the United States for the 2004-2005 season due to the suspension of the company's license to manufacture the Fluvirin vaccine.

The CDC estimates this will reduce the expected vaccine supply by half this season.

According to Maj. (Doctor) Chris Littell, chief of Preventative Medicine Services, due to the national shortage Winn Army Community Hospital will not be able to offer beneficiary influenza vaccinations until early December, late November at the earliest.

"The typical influenza peak occurs in February so vaccination in late November or early December is not too late," Littell said.

High risk beneficiaries, people who are at higher risk for flu-related complications, include adults aged 65 and older, children ages 6 to 23 months, children and adults with underlying chronic med-

ical conditions, women who will be pregnant during the influenza season, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, health care workers, out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months old.

"It's hard to prevent the flu but using common sense and good hygiene" can make all the difference, said Maj. (Doctor) James McQuown, chief of the Department of Primary Care Services.

The flu, a viral infection that impacts five to 20 percent of the U.S. population each year, is spread by respiratory droplets caused by coughing and sneezing.

"It usually spreads from person to person though a person may become infected by touching something with virus on it and then touching their mouth or nose," according to the CDC.

McQuown recommends frequent hand washing, avoiding large groups of people during the height of flu season and staying home when symptoms are at its worst.

Adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before getting symptoms and up to seven days after getting sick, according to the CDC.

"That means you can give someone the flu before you know you're sick as well as while you are sick," according to the CDC.

The flu typically lasts seven to 10 days though McQuown said most people get over the worst part in two to three days.

The symptoms of the flu typically include high fever, headache, muscle aches, extreme tired-

ness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and gastro-intestinal symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Gastro-intestinal symptoms are more common in children.

For most people, a visit to the doctor is not necessary. Symptoms can be treated with over-the-counter medication. However, people in the high risk category experiencing high fever, shakes or difficulty breathing should see the doctor as this could indicate a flu-related complication, McQuown said.

"If you know the flu season is upon

you, remember common sense and good hygiene" - wash your hands, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, avoid large groups of people and stay at home when possible.

If you get sick, rest, drink plenty of fluids, avoid using alcohol or tobacco products and take over-the-counter medication to relieve the symptoms.

For more information, visit the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov.

Here are some things you can do to prevent getting sick:

Avoid close contact. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

Stay at home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school and running errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

Cover your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around your from getting sick. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve.

Clean your hands. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his eyes, nose or mouth.

Maj. (Doctor) Chris Little
Preventative Medicine Services

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Voting is right worth fighting to protect

Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth

Task Force 1-501st PIR

FORT RICHARDSON, Alaska — On Nov. 2 Americans will decide who will be the President of the United States. That same week, halfway around the world, the final results of another presidential election should be known.

Almost 10 million Afghanistan citizens participated in that country's first presidential election Oct. 9. After the voting was complete, the ballots were taken to the capitol, Kabul, by road, air and donkey. There the tedious process of counting the ballots by hand began.

The interim president Hamid Karzai is expected to be the winner out of the 18 candidates.

"To see the condition they are in and we are in makes you appreciate what our forefathers did," said 2nd Lt. John Campbell, 2nd platoon leader, Company B, 1-501st Airborne Task Force. "It was sheer genius of our forefathers to come up with checks and balances, a system where each person has a say in their government."

For Campbell, the Afghan presidential election has a special meaning. During his tour in Afghanistan, one task his platoon had was to keep the Taliban and al Qaeda militants in check at the Khowst province voter registration sites.

He and the rest of 2nd platoon accomplished this by making patrols to and around the sites. This was not always easy as the voter registration sites moved once they got all the people in that area. Campbell said one of the original 12 sites they went back to moved three times.

"Most of the sites didn't have any issues," Campbell said. "Some of the

sites had Taliban or ACM (anti-coalition militia) activity in the area prior to the voter registration."

In the Khowst area, as throughout Afghanistan, there were "night letters" dropped off containing threats against anyone who works for the election process. But, the Afghan people would not let themselves be deprived of the chance to finally have a say in their government.

In the Khowst province, Afghan officials had hoped to get 30,000 people registered. When the 501st left at the end of July, more than 204,000 Afghans in that area had registered for their right to vote.

Upon his return to Alaska, Campbell and other 501st "Geronimos" did what they enabled Afghans to do. During a readiness check of his medical and personnel records his first week back in the states, Campbell, with the help of the Fort Richardson Federal Voting Assistance Program, registered to vote in the upcoming U.S. presidential elections.

"As Americans, especially as American Soldiers, we have the freedom of choice. To choose to vote or not to," Campbell stated. "That is what we (the U.S. military) are fighting for, not only in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries, but also here in the United States."

Campbell added that he thought it was sad that with all that our military is doing to help other countries find their voice, there are still those in this country who choose not to vote, not to have a voice in their country.

It is especially sad when you look at what Afghans are enduring for that same right. In the Central Highlands of the country, voters arrived at a voting

station at 3 a.m., in cold temperatures and a foot of snow, they waited for almost four hours for the station to open. At other voting sites people waited in lines 2.5 kilometers long to make their voice heard

Women of Konduz refused to move when a rocket landed 200 meters from where they were waiting to vote. To leave, they said, would mean the rockets, and the people who fired them, would win. These women would defeat them by staying and voting.

Abraham Lincoln, almost a century and a half ago, had the same thoughts when he said "the ballot is stronger than the bullet."

"The Afghan people, by coming out and voting, have given the last defeat to terrorism," Karzai said in an interview with CBS news. "They have told terrorism that you are not here, you are done, this country is ours and we are going to make it."

Because of Campbell's experience in Afghanistan of fighting terrorism and helping with the registration, the upcoming U.S. elections mean more to him. This is the second U.S. presidential election for the 23-year-old paratrooper, who four years ago cast his vote via absentee ballot from West Point.

"It makes you appreciate the American system and that it works," Campbell said.

Campbell said he was amazed to hear the first Afghan voter was a woman. "After being over there and seeing the women in burques and knowing how the women were treated, it is amazing to now see the changes.

Hopefully with our help they can build a government with the same success," the lieutenant added.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

"What is your favorite Halloween costume and why?"

"My favorite Disney character since I was four is Tinkerbell."

Amanda Erusehaber
Heritage Bank



"Jason Vorhees looks cool and he is every child's nightmare."

Pvt. Collin Flood
A Co., 1/76 FA



"My favorite is the sexy and mysterious woman, Elvira."

Donna Gillespie
Spouse



"I think the most accurate representation of Halloween is a witch."

Michelle Tenorio
AAFES



"Ninja Turtle because I like pizza and Michaelangelo."

Pfc. Jeremiah Shuetter
A Co., 2/7 Inf. Bn.



"Skin tight leather looks awesome, so Trinity."

Christina Fields
Barber



Letter to the Editor

Firing back ...

This letter is in regards to the article by Spc. Lane entitled "Crying Won't Change Things", published in the Oct. 14 Frontline.

The article discussed how the author thought that the stop-loss issue should be dealt with by Soldiers who are caught up in it. He basically took the position that I have heard many, many times: life is tough, quit your whining. I find this attitude unrealistic, and lacking in sensitivity towards fellow Soldiers who may have otherwise served their time, and are now having their lives disrupted by this "back-door draft." I must also point out that since I plan to stay in for 20 or more years, I can be somewhat objective.

Spc. Lane says that he tries to have a positive outlook. Maybe he is relatively unaffected by the stop-loss; in that he will not miss a school date (which, in itself is particularly unfair, as I remember at least one officer leaving my unit in Iraq early with the Army's blessing so as not to miss his school start-date) or another family member's final moments will be missed

because her son is in Iraq. Maybe he is not in the position to have to contribute to a family income just to keep a sibling in college. These are all examples I have heard from Soldiers who are not able to maintain such a cavalier attitude about stop-loss. There are many more. It is not simply a lack of motivation, understanding, patriotism or self discipline that causes deterioration in a Soldiers attitude when notified of a stop-loss affecting them.

Spc. Lane also says that the complaining on the part of these Soldier's is making his life miserable... gee, if that is all it takes, then you are in the wrong army. Complaining is a Soldier's way of letting off steam. It is often times the only recourse available due to military discipline. As long as the Soldier continues to Soldier, then let them vent.

The author also characterizes the Soldiers he disparages as just sitting around and crying about their problems. This is just a way to cast these Soldiers as whiners, or cowards and to draw attention

away from the fact that, though the much vaunted contract you sign is alluded to by the Army when it serves their purpose; when it comes time to fulfill their end of the bargain ... well, good luck with that. The fact is, many people are brought into the armed forces through what amounts of false advertising; and veiled half-truths that attempt to paint an unrealistic picture of military life. It says a lot about their sense of duty that many initially disillusioned Soldiers continue to fulfill their obligation despite a sense of betrayal; they simply expect to get out when they were told they would. Not everyone is cut out for a full military career. How old fashioned and unpatriotic; that we expect to not be lied to by our government.

So, Spc. Lane, next time you hear a Soldier "crying" over stop-loss, just break out your army-issue ear plugs and carry-on.

Yours,
Spc. Brad L. Stuckey

BUSTER'S BATTERY

My, my, my ... if it isn't Mister "You'll NEVER get my butt back in uniform!"



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Reserve Sgt. Maj. meets with Soldiers at Stewart

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Associate Editor

The Sergeant Major of any military branch is an extremely busy person, but he is also a person who tries to spare any moment possible to talk and listen to the servicemembers he represents.

The Army Reserve Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michelle Jones, is no exception.

Jones recently completed a visit to Fort Stewart, which included seeing Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division at their various training sites in action Oct. 14 and Oct. 15.

Despite a busy schedule, Jones not only met with her Reserve Soldiers but had lunch and breakfast with them and the NCOs of Stewart. She addressed key issues concerning the Soldiers and answered questions many of them had.

"I visit with units wherever I

manage to go," Jones said. "Then I take time and listen to the Soldiers and ask them the deep, probing questions on what's concerning them, because Soldiers are the reason this job exists."

Jones said she was asked questions about deployment, family care, health benefits and career opportunities the Army Reserve can offer.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Jones is a mover and shaker; she believes in going to the source to get issues resolved, and I believe she is a hard person to say no to," said Sgt. 1st Class Sarah B. Hayes, medical hold, NCOIC.

Having visited a variety of places, including Wright Army Airfield, Winn Army Hospital and the NCO Academy, Jones enjoyed her brief visit at Stewart.

"It was a phenomenal experience that I enjoyed," Jones said "The Soldiers truly opened up and were welcoming here."

Regardless if a Soldier is a Reservist, National Guardsman, or active duty, Jones said, she makes no distinction of component and leaves Soldiers with the same message.

"Every Soldier serves for individual reasons. However, collectively we all serve one purpose. Regardless of component, we all are Soldiers in the U.S. Army serving this nation," Jones said.

Jones entered the Army in 1982. She attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.

She has held every NCO position, including squad leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and command sergeant major, and was also the first woman to serve as class president at the United States Sergeants Major Academy.



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Army Reserve Sgt. Maj. Michelle Jones meets with the Reserve Soldiers to answer issues concerning them Oct. 21 at Winn Army Hospital.

MRX serves dual role for DSB

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Associate Editor

In the Army, it might be said that one of the best ways to improve, excel and exceed expectations is to train constantly.

The Division Support Brigade has shown it is no exception to this rule, training its unit in the field with new equipment and giving its "greenest" Soldiers time outside of the garrison.

The Soldiers of the DSB were at Wright Army Airfield as part of 3rd Infantry Division's mission readiness exercise from Oct. 15 through Oct. 22.

"We're out here training in our role for the upcoming deployment," said DSB 1st Sgt. William Payne. Our mission is logistics, which is the life support for units to be able to perform their assigned tasks."

"This field exercise is a pre-deployment preparation of what our job will be like in a combat situation like Iraq," said Sgt. Kentwon Moore, DSB communication

repair.

Soldiers in the DSB from the bottom on up agree that field time may seem tiring, but what can be gained, especially with a return to Iraq on the horizon, makes it worth it.

"Out here you work long hours and may have very little free time for your own, but those factors prepare you mentally and physically for what you could expect in Iraq," said Pfc. Jason Macklin, DSB truck driver.

Along with the rigors Soldiers deal with during a field training exercise, the MRX is the perfect opportunity to actively field test new equipment the brigade has received.

"With our new equipment, we can follow a convoy as it goes down a street, redirect them if something obstructs their way, or (notify them if) potentially unknown vehicles are coming down their path," said Maj. Kimberly Daub, DSB support planning officer.

Using the new equipment to its fullest potential, the DSB is able to

now actively follow vehicles with onboard sensors and satellites in the sky, which bounce the signals back to a main terminal for tracking.

"We're training as realistically as possible," said Pvt. Justin Smith, DSB intelligence analyst. "Out here we are learning things as we train on many of the new systems, which is very important because we're seeing what we're good at and things we still need to work on."

As a day in the MRX wraps up, the Soldiers of the DSB have a chance to reflect on their brigade's progress in the field training.

"Out here it's both training and hands-on experience for Soldiers' jobs, regardless if they are a cook or commander. That makes this training invaluable," Moore said.

"We've been very successful thus far in training, but whatever you do you, can do better," Payne said.

He added, "The troops are highly motivated and familiar with the path for deployment."



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Pfc. Christopher Williams, 2nd Detachment, 3rd Signal Company, secures the transmitting antenna at the DSB field training exercise at Wright Army Airfield Oct. 21.

MPs

from page 1A

together with Iraqi investigators in the CID (Criminal Investigations Diyala) to aid in solving crimes.

Although a field artillery unit might seem an unlikely choice for a 10-day retraining course to become Military Police Officers, this particular unit was remarkably well-suited for the task.

“We have a strangely disproportionate amount of law enforcement officers in our unit,” said Fouts, himself a Captain in the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. “I think that was a big part of the reason they took a look at us.”

Fouts brought with him a wealth of knowledge from his civilian occupation and put it to use here as the primary instructor for the TIP academy, a department within the police academy designed to retrain Iraqis who had already worked as police officers under the Baath regime.

The focus of the TIP academy is the de-Baathification of the officers as well as the teaching of Democracy, human rights, policing and investigative techniques, said Capt. Christian H. Solinsky, the Diyala Province Police Coordinator.

“Sgt. Fouts is a great instructor. He’s the man!” said Solinsky. “He’s very, very animated and he keeps them on their toes. He’ll make an impression on every Iraqi he teaches.”

Although Fouts said his experi-

ence has not been at all what he thought it would be and that they’ve been exposed to a lot more than he ever thought they would be, he feels good about what they’re doing here.

“I wouldn’t call it bad per se, it’s just more than we expected,” he said. “Sometimes you question whether you make a difference, but we’ve done some good things here. I like the feeling of being able to teach these people something for their future. I feel awesome about that.”

One of the experiences Fouts could have done without, however, was the rocket attack on the police station Oct. 16.

Like most service members serving in combat zones, Fouts has attempted to shield his loved ones — his wife of 17 years, Candy, and 16-year-old son, Jacob — from the sometimes harsh realities of his day-to-day life. But on that day, he no longer had that luxury.

The round, a 107mm Chinese-made rocket, had impacted the east side of the building, blasting through an air conditioning unit on the wall of a small, two-man barracks room, continuing through the far wall and up into the ceiling over the hallway, only a few feet from where he was sitting.

“I got very, very excited,” he said. “My good buddy walked up behind me and we both saw it at the same time and he grabbed me and we both ran the other way

yelling ‘Get out of the building, get out of the building!’”

When the explosive ordinance team arrived and removed the round, they told the MPs that although it wasn’t fused, the round did have the potential to explode. Fortunately for Fouts and the others in the building that day, it did not, and no one was injured.

Fouts emailed his wife later that evening to let her know that he and the others were okay, and phoned her the following day. He said the timing of the event was particularly difficult, because only the day before, a Soldier from the unit’s platoon stationed in Mosul had been killed in action. And at the time of the call, his wife was getting ready for a family support group meeting to deal with the loss.

Although that day will stay with him, he said there have been others equally as memorable. One that stands out in the minds of everyone there was an attack mounted by insurgents on April 9, when insurgent activity spiked in Ba’qubah and throughout the country.

On that day, the MPs received intelligence that there would be an attack on the police station. They were prepared for the attack, having brought in additional troops to aid in force protection.

“A lot of heroes were made that day,” said Solinsky. “Spc. (Jesse D.) Greene was blown off his (observation Post) a couple of times, but

kept getting back up and in the fight.”

At about 2:30 p.m., the attack began when a rocket-propelled-grenade was fired at the compound. Greene, a 20-year-old MP from Douglas, Mass. serving with the 293rd MP Company, was on the roof posted at Observation Post One with Sgt. Stanley Nixon Jr.

Over the course of the next hour, they and the others posted on the rooftop fought through a series of 25-30 RPGs fired at the building along with small arms and machine gun fire.

“I was firing the SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) and an RPG hit an antenna behind me and blew up, threw shrapnel in my left calf,” said Greene. “Sgt. Nixon wrapped up my leg as I was firing. Then an RPG hit the wall in front of us and threw me and Sgt. Nixon back.”

At that point, Nixon tossed Greene an AT-4, (shoulder-fired anti-tank weapon). Greene took a well-aimed shot at the window the insurgents were firing from and struck a direct hit.

“I was thinking ‘I gotta shoot back; get them before they get me,’” he said. “They didn’t fire from that window anymore.”

The pair then moved to the opposite side of the OP, to deal with fire coming in that direction. Another RPG hit the sandbags in front of them, throwing them back once again.

“(Nixon) told me to get on the Mark-19, (a belt-fed automatic 40mm grenade launcher) so I went running for it back on the other side of the OP and then I just fired the Mark-19,” he said. “Everybody up here fought hard that day. I didn’t do anything that anyone else wouldn’t have done.”

The troops have endured about a dozen attacks on the station, although none as intense as the firefight April 9, said Fouts who also fought from the roof that day. The individual Soldiers spent up to 18 hours on the roof that day, protecting the police station and helping to cover the movement of coalition troops in the city.

“My childhood friend, Staff Sgt. (Donald H.) Smialak took shrapnel and was gone three to four months,” he said. “That was kind of tough on me, we’ve had several people wounded. This platoon has had somewhere in the neighborhood of 12 to 15 purple hearts.”

Although the deployment has been tough, it has also been positive, said Fouts. Through their experiences, the men have become even closer and he feels he will now always have a group of brothers back home.

He said he even learned a little about his wife here.

“She’s done a great job. She’s very strong,” he said with a chuckle. “That’s good for me though, because it proves she doesn’t need me, she just likes me.”

ASAP

from page 1A

load,” McNeill said. “Not only have we been helping the Stewart community but we have worked hard helping each other.”

The ASAP program won this award in the middle of preparing the division for another deployment to Iraq which will continue to test Soldiers over there.

Mujica said, “I think this year has been a challenge with deployments, but we still have a positive attitude and hopefully we will win it again next year.”

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BRAC

from page 1A

greatly leveraged the Army's combat projection power.

DuBois said the 2005 BRAC is aimed at combining that kind of power, including joint training, at installations that best offer it. Also, he noted, duplication can be reduced by merging military research and laboratory facilities.

Any new base closures would take into account the need to maintain a

military "surge" capacity to deal with potential future threats, Dubois emphasized.

Previous BRACs have provided \$7 billion in annual savings to DoD since 2001, DuBois recalled. But, he noted, DoD still has \$660 billion tied up in property inventory.

The Defense Department needs "to free up that kind of investment capital to support our troops in areas where

those resources are needed," he said.

"We have a responsibility to provide the people defending our country with the highest quality training, technology, weapons systems, information and resources available," he said, "to include a well-maintained infrastructure by eliminating the unnecessary capacity."

Final 2005 BRAC recommendations will be presented in the spring.

Historic unit part of Raider regiment

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane
1st Bde.

One of the Army's most decorated and historical units, the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment is assigned to 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. They were assembled in the latter part of the 19th Century as part of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, inducted into the Army to battle the native American uprisings in the western United States territories, according to the Center for Military History.

5/7 Cav. was organized at Fort Riley, Kansas in 1866 with Col. Andrew J. Smith as their first commander. One of their first assignments was to uphold the federal distillery tax in the southern states and suppress the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1873, 5/7 Cav. fought Native Americans and were involved in Custer's Last Stand at Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876.

The battalion continued to serve in the Indian Wars until 1890, when they fought their last battle of the war, the Ghost Dance War at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.

The battalion remerged to serve during the Spanish American War from 1899 to 1902, where they were stationed at Camp Columbia, Cuba, and played a part in

quelling the Filipino insurgency in the Batangas and Laguna provinces in the Philippine Islands. 5/7 Cav. would return to the Philippines for a second tour of duty from 1911 to 1915, where they were stationed at Fort William McKinley.

One of the main duties of 5/7 Cav. after returning from the Philippines was patrolling the Mexican border from 1915 to 1921.

Then 1st Cavalry Division officially obtained 5/7 Cav. on Sept. 13, 1921.

During World War II, 5/7 Cav. was assigned to the Pacific Theater. After the war ended, 5/7 was assigned as an occupation force to Japan, until the Korean War, where they served with the 1st Cav. Div. from 1950 to 1955.

Although 5/7 Cav. had gone through quite a few changes in names and locations, they regained their name in 1966, when they were deployed to Vietnam until 1971.

The unit fought many offensives and counteroffensives during the Vietnam War, which was the most active part of their history since the Indian Wars.

The official inactivation of 5/7 Cav. took place at Fort Hood, Texas on Sept. 30, 1978, where they were relieved of their duty to the 1st Cav. Div.

On July 19, 2004, 5/7 Cav. was activated again as part of the 3rd Infantry Division, with Lt. Col. Jody Petery appointed commander.

Today, 5/7 Cav. is training in preparation for the upcoming deployment of the 3rd Inf. Div. to Operation Iraqi Freedom 3. Recently, a retired CBS reporter who served with 5/7 Cav. for four years in Vietnam, Norman Lloyd, visited Soldiers in the field and shot footage as part of a documentary.

"I want to put together a collective history of 5/7 throughout the years," Lloyd said. "I have tons of footage from Vietnam, and now that I am retired, I want to do this film. I never had the time to do this, but it was always kind of a dream for me."

Lloyd did interviews with the Soldiers and focused on asking them questions about deployment and comraderie while in battle.

"Some of the guys I remember best are the ones I met during (Vietnam)," Lloyd said. "I think it's important to find out what these Soldiers think of the bond you make during war."

"We just want wives and family members of the Soldiers to know we are training them to standard," Petery said. "We want them to know that they won't have to worry about their Soldiers while they are deployed."



Courtesy photo

Helicopters, supposed to be able to land on a dime, found they couldn't touch down on narrow hilltops in the Central Vietnam coastlands, but that didn't stop them from delivering right on the money.

Iraq's 'Special Forces' continue training, ops

Sgt. Jared Zabaldo
Army News

IRAQ — The Iraqi Special Operations Force — the Iraqi Armed Forces' high-end strike force resembling U.S. Special Forces units — continues training and operations in the country with multinational force assistance.

Consisting of two trained battalions, including the 36th Commando Battalion — an infantry-type strike force — and the Iraqi Counterterrorism Battalion, the force has been involved in many operations throughout the country including places like Najaf and Samarra, fighting anti-Iraqi forces with great distinction while continuing the stand-up effort of the unit. The force will add a third "support" battalion to its ranks in

the coming months. Training is conducted at an undisclosed location.

"A lot these guys do come from former Iraqi Special Ops," a Special Forces multinational advisor said of the ultra-secretive force. "They are highly screened before every selection and they operate throughout the country."

"Selection" for the force begins in the Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi army units already operating in the country, much like typical multinational Special Forces' recruiting efforts in their own countries.

Outstanding recruits successfully negotiating the vetting process, including exhaustive background checks, skill evaluations, and unit evaluations along with literacy, psychological, and

physical tests, are run through various team-building and physical events meant to lean down the recruit pool. The selection process runs roughly 10 to 14 days.

And while the counterterrorist battalion was completely built upon individual applicants from the ground up, the 36th Commandos genesis actually began with the identification of a particular Iraqi National Guard battalion which fought with particular distinction in Fallujah, in recent months, and other places.

"They are very, very effective," the multinational advisor reported. "They exercise extreme discipline and are totally mission focused."

"And they have taken minimal losses," the advisor said, indicating that to his knowledge the unit had

suffered only a single fatality in action thus far.

"They're fully capable," he said.

And training efforts continue to improve their efficiency as the units work through typical Special Forces training normally consisting of intense physical training, land navigation, small-unit tactics, live-fire, unconventional warfare operations, direct action operations, airmobile operations, counterterrorism and survival, evasion, resistance, and escape training. Special Forces soldiers are an army's unconventional warfare experts, possessing a broad range of operational skills.

Soldiers in the unit routinely negotiate "live-fire" building-clearing exercises involving helicopter rooftop insertions and quick ground assault strikes on buildings

and other typical operational scenarios.

The advisor said that what the Iraqis are looking for are individuals with a particular toughness and aptitude with team-play attributes — a recruiting mission with which the Iraqi Ministry of Defense still leans heavily on multinational advisors' expertise.

"The intent, though, is for them to be fully operational without any [multinational] assistance," the advisor said. "But right now, there is no 'final' stand-up date."

"We don't want to rush the unit to failure," he added.

"You see all these guys?" an Iraqi Special Operations Force soldier from the unit asked. "They want to do great things. We are not scared."

"God gave the life," he said, "And God take the life away."

Soldier sentenced in Abu Ghraib abuse

Kelli R. Petermeyer
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Staff Sgt. Ivan L. Frederick II was sentenced Oct. 21 to eight years in prison after pleading guilty on eight specifications involving mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib.

Frederick, a member of the 372nd Military Police Company, will also receive a dishonorable discharge and a reduction in rank to private.

Frederick was found guilty of one specification of conspiracy to maltreat detainees, one specification of dereliction of duty for failure to protect detainees from maltreatment, four specifications of maltreatment of detainees, one specification of assaulting a detainee and one specification of committing an indecent act.

Frederick said he worked in a state prison in Virginia, and they had regulations covering anything from emergencies to abuse. He was put in charge of a section at Abu Ghraib because of his previous experience.

He noticed detainees naked and handcuffed after his first day at Abu Ghraib, Frederick said. He asked for manuals outlining standard operating procedures and Army regulations, he said, but was told they did not exist.

"I didn't think anybody cared about what we did," Frederick said.

Frederick said he received little guidance and no visits from his brigade and battalion commanders.

"I just didn't have the courage to stop it," he said. "I knew what was going on was wrong. I knew my duty was to report it, but I chose not to."

Frederick's wife, Martha Ann Frederick, testified in the sentencing phase of the trial.

"The things he's accused of are not in his nature," Martha said. "He's very dedicated to his family, his job and to the military. I love him very much."

"Whatever the judge does to him, it not only reflects on

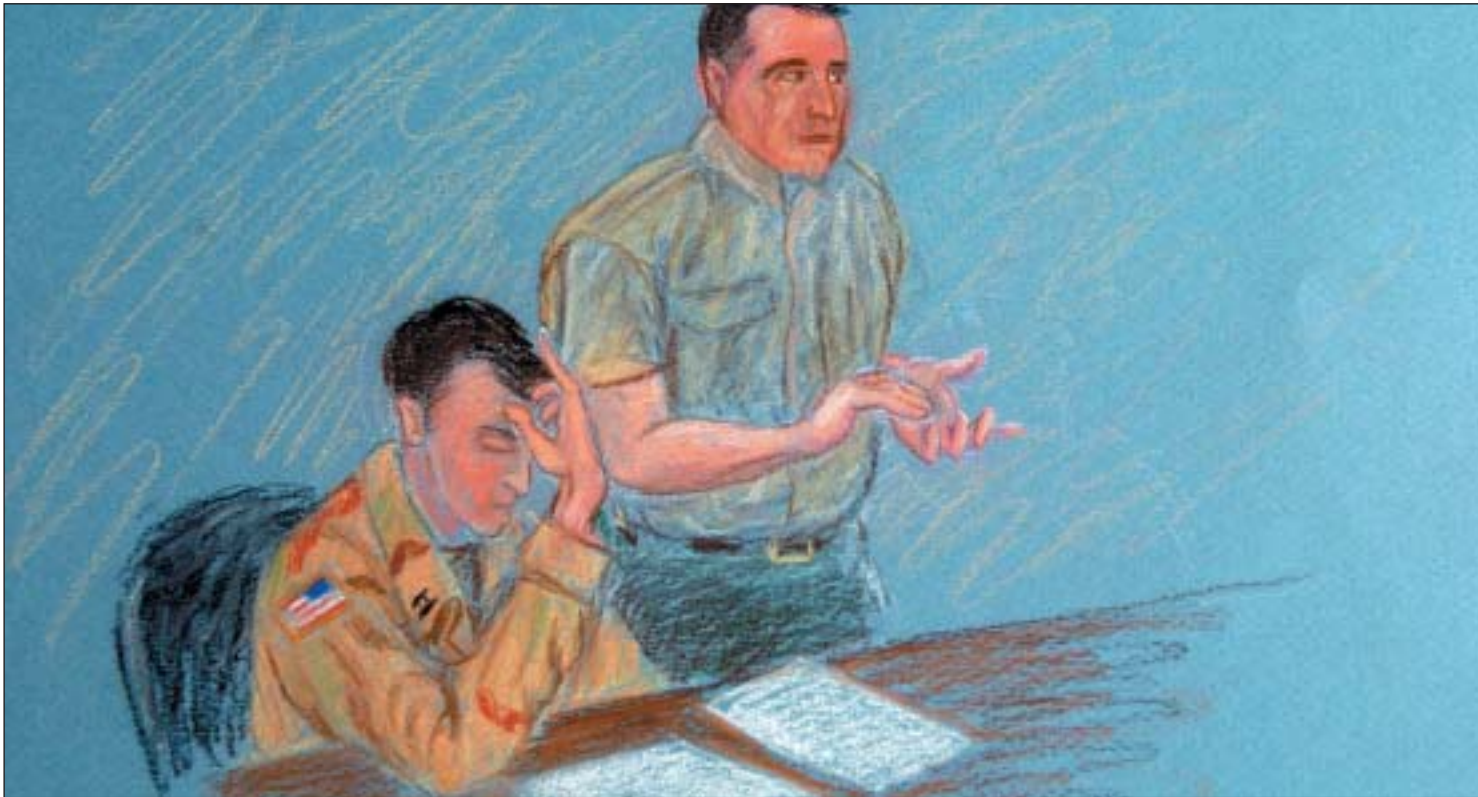


Illustration by Marine Cpl. Annette Kyriakides

Capt. Jay Heath and Guy Wamack, attorneys for Spc. Charles A. Graner Jr, discuss a defense motion with the judge during an Oct. 22 motions hearing. Graner faces charges for Abu Ghraib detainee abuse.

him, but on his family. He is a good person, not some rogue Soldier or a bad apple."

Six other military policemen have been charged along with Frederick, the most senior of the Soldiers charged.

Spc. Jeremy Sivits pleaded guilty to three abuse charges and was sentenced in May to a maximum of one year in prison, a bad conduct discharge and a reduction in rank.

The motions hearing for Cpl. Charles A. Graner Jr. ended Oct. 22. The next court date is set for Dec. 3, and the trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 7 in Baghdad.

The motions hearing for Sgt. Javal Davis began Oct. 22.

Pfc. Lynndie R. England faces 19 charges in the abuse case and is scheduled for a motions hearing in December and trial in January.

Keys to open doors at new family housing in 20 days

Dianne Boggs
GMH Military Housing

Open the front door of a home in the Southern Living Station of Choice and walk in to vinyl flooring, carpeted bedrooms, kitchens equipped with disposals, dishwashers, microwaves, double-bowl sinks, along with refrigerators and ranges, oak cabinets throughout the house and ceiling fans in the living room and master bedroom. These are

just some of the exciting features in the new junior-enlisted family housing at Liberty Woods. The Residential Communities Initiative, GMH Military Housing and partners The Benham Companies and Centex Construction Company made it their mission to provide soldiers and their families with affordable housing of superior quality. Residents will be able to take a look in 20 days and see the mission accomplished.



Kitchen area in process of being built for new housing area on Fort Stewart.

Be Safe
this
Halloween!



POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
• **Charge:** Wrongful. use of marijuana
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
• **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charge:** Driving without a license
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 28-year-old male, separate unit
• **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
• **Charge:** Drunk in public
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old female
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession of open container while operating a vehicle, reckless driving
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 39-year-old female, 4th Bde.
• **Charge:** Failure to obey general order/regulation
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 35-year-old male, separate unit
• **Charge:** Speeding 89/55
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Civilian, 22-year-old female
• **Charges:** Criminal trespass, fail to stop at stop sign, driving while license suspended
• **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, Avn. Bde.

• **Charges:** Assault consummated by battery, cruelty to children in the second degree, obstruction or hindering persons making emergency telephone calls
• **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 37-year-old female, Avn. Bde.
• **Charge:** Aggravated assault — using bludgeon
• **Location:** Richmond Hill

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
• **Charges:** Drunken driving, speeding
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Civilian, 22-year-old female
• **Charge:** Failure to stop at stop sign, driving while license suspended
• **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Family member, 22-year-old female
• **Charges:** Driving on a suspended license, unlawful transfer of license plate
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 4th Bde.
• **Charge:** Reckless driving
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old male
• **Charge:** Unlawful possession of a rifle by a convicted felon
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
• **Charges:** Simple assault, damage to private property, unlawful entry
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.



• **Charge:** Simple battery
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.
• **Charge:** Simple assault
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Corporal, 22-year-old male, separate unit
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession/use of fraudulent identification card, laying drag
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Family member, 36-year-old female
• **Charge:** Assault within maritime and territorial jurisdiction
• **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 2nd Bde.

• **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, false official statement
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
• **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charge:** Sales of a controlled substance
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 23-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, improper lane usage
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 35-year-old male, separate unit

• **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, separate unit
• **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful use of marijuana
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to obey a lawful order
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 30-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
• **Charge:** Indecent assault
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
• **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
• **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, false official statement
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
• **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private, 18-year-old female, 1st Bde.
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, underage drinking
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charges:** Obstruction

by hindering, obstruction by resisting
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, urinating in public
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Corporal, 23-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 81/55
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
• **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
• **Location:** Huntsville, Ala.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
• **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful use of cocaine
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
• **Charges:** Simple battery, criminal trespassing
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 36-year-old male, 1st Bde.
• **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.
• **Charges:** Reckless driving, failure to obey order/regulation (motorcycle equipment), failure to register vehicle within 30 days
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, loud music
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

3D IN BRIEF

Stewart

Special Olympic Games
Volunteers are needed for the 2004 Winter games at Marne and Stewart Lanes, Dec. 3. Any assistance is welcome and rewarding.

Troop to GaTAPP III
The Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program is open to current or retired military, dependents, or residents of the general vicinity who hold baccalaureate degree with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
For more information, call 767-8331.

Trick or Treat
Trick or treating is scheduled for Saturday at Fort Stewart and Hunter. Children should acknowledge the "porch light policy" from 6 to 8 p.m.
If you plan to give out candy, please turn on your porch light.

Newman Fitness Center
The facility will be closed Nov. 29, for renovation and will remain closed until completed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Hurricane assistance
Coordinated efforts of the City Council of Richmond Hill and Fort Stewart to contribute can goods, diapers, school supplies, toiletries, money and any item used in every day activities is needed.
These items will be sent to

victims of the recent disasters in Florida.
Drop off areas are the Fort Stewart Commissary and Bldg. 170. Deadline for these contributions is Sunday. Support for this disaster relief drive is needed.
For more information, call Windy Hunter at 572-4650.

Canned Food Drive
The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, "Rock of the Marne" Chapter will be conducting a canned food drive, Saturday at the Fort Stewart Commissary. It will start at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.
This is the third annual event. Last year was a great success and the Chapter was able to give away more than 75 Thanksgiving food baskets with turkeys to our Soldiers.
The next scheduled Canned Food Drive will be Saturday, Nov. 6, same time and location. For more information, call 767-7077.

Town Hall Meeting
The next scheduled meeting will be at Club Stewart, Nov. 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Fall Crafts Extravaganza
Family oriented event to enjoy free kiddie rides, hay rides, music, and food. Rent a table to sell your goods. Yard sales also held in housing areas.
No permits required. For more information call 767-8326/8228 before Wednesday.

Hunter

Trick or Treating
The designated trick-or-treat date and time for children in Hunter housing areas is Saturday from 6-8 p.m. The porch light policy will be in effect.

Spouses Club Luncheon
The Hunter Spouses Club has scheduled their November luncheon for Nov. 9 at the Hunter Club. The cost is \$10. For more information, call 927-5666.

Soldier/Family Day With God
The Catholic communities of Fort Stewart and Hunter are sponsoring this event Nov. 14. Mass will be at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, social gathering for singles and couples following mass, a youth ministry event for teens, and activities for children all in the DeSoto Hilton. At 6 p.m. there is a candle light prayer service in Madison Square to conclude the event.

Veteran's Day Dance
American Legion Post 184 in Thunderbolt, Ga., has scheduled a Veteran's Day dance to be held Nov. 5 at Post 184 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. The lounge will be open at 4 p.m., and will include the Ladies Auxiliary silent auction from 7 to 9 p.m. Active duty military and their guest will be admitted to the dance free. Dress is casual. For ticket information, call 713-3863 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Post 184 at 354-5515 Wednesday through Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m.

Holiday Bazaar
The 1st Annual Hunter Thrift Shop Holiday Bazaar is scheduled to be held next to the Thrift Shop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13. Private vendors, arts and crafts, gifts, and more will be available. For more information, please call the Thrift Shop at 352-0376.

Recycling Center has moved
Due to construction projects, the Hunter Recycling Center is temporarily located on Joseph Mower Street adjacent to the Hazardous Waste Facility. The public can continue to dispose of their paper, plastic, glass and can products at this facility. For more information, call 352-5987.

Trip to Jacksonville Zoo
A trip to the Jacksonville Zoo is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13. The bus departs from Fort Stewart Leisure Activities and HAAF Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m. The payment/registration deadline is \$16 by Sunday. Transportation coupons are available for deploying military families. There are two packages available:
•Zoo admission, train tickets, picnic lunch (hamburger or hot dog, salad or chips, cookie or brownie and drink). Price: Adults \$36, children \$30
•Zoo admission transportation and you take care of the rest. Price: Adults \$24.50, children \$21
Call 767-2841 or 352-5722 for more information. Seats are limited.

Winn /Tuttle

X-ray Halloween Candy
Trick-or-treaters may bring in their candy from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday for screening. Screenings will be held in radiology.

Update DEERS
Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date or they may not be able to receive referrals, schedule appointments or access TRICARE Online. Winn and Tuttle use DEERS information to contact you regarding referrals and appointments. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by building 253.

EDIS Family Day
The Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will hold Family Day 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in the EDIS office located at Winn. For more information, call 370-6370.

TRICARE Phone Numbers
For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 1-877-217-7946. If you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Third Party Insurance
Individual's social security numbers will no longer be displayed on health insurance

cards in accordance with Georgia Senate Bill 721. Individuals with private health insurance should contact the Third Party Insurance Office at Winn upon receipt of their unique member identification numbers (policy numbers.) Call the Third Party Insurance Office at 370-6037/6947 for more information.

Training for Expectant Fathers
Baby Basic Training offers fathers-to-be the chance to ask questions and practice taking care of their child through hands-on training. The class, facilitated by a man for men, will cover topics that include how to change diapers, bathe and hold an infant to what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery. The class will be held 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Social Work Services building. For more information, call 370-6779.

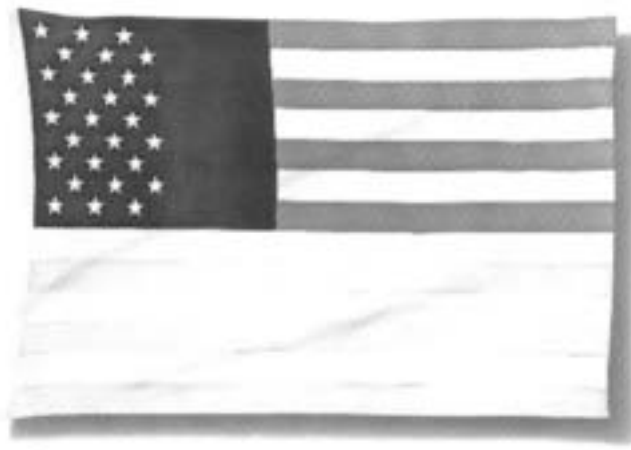
Tobacco Cessation Classes
You must take the "Ready to Quit" class before you can take the Tobacco Use Cessation class. The "Ready to Quit" class is available 11 a.m. Nov. 10 and 24 on a walk-in basis. The Tobacco Use Cessation class at Winn will be held 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday from Dec. 9 to 30. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday from Dec. 7 to 28. The class will help you kick the habit, whether smoking, chewing or dipping. To register at Winn, call 370-5071. To register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

Marne TV

October/November 2004 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday.
Tune in to the Marne Report six times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

- 5 a.m. Army Newswatch
- 5:30 a.m. MARNE REPORT
- 6:30 a.m. Air Force News
- 7 a.m. Navy News
- 7:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
- 8 a.m. MARNE REPORT
- 9 a.m. Air Force News
- 9:30 a.m. Navy News
- 11:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
- Noon MARNE REPORT
- 1 p.m. Air Force News
- 4:30 p.m. Navy News
- 5 p.m. MARNE REPORT
- 6 p.m. Army Newswatch
- 6:30 p.m. Air Force News
- 7 p.m. Navy News
- 10 p.m. MARNE REPORT
- 11 p.m. Army Newswatch
- Midnight MARNE REPORT



SINCE ONLY 50% OF AMERICANS VOTE,
WILL THIS BE THE KIND OF FLAG WE WAVE?



Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)

Insurgent search like 'Chasing Ghosts'

Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Burns
USA 39th Brigade Combat Team

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — A tiny 2-year-old boy stood silent and alone in the early morning darkness as he watched U.S. Soldiers file past, one by one, to his small farmhouse located just outside Taji, Iraq.

"What's up little man? ... What's up?" asked Army Spc. Jason Freeman, of Jacksonville, Ark., as he moved through the small, fenced-in, deserted yard with his rifle.

Dawn was beginning to poke through the sky, and the boy, seeming a little out of place, was the first thing stirring in the run-down, Iraqi neighborhood.

The Arkansas Soldiers, who had awakened for their mission at 2 a.m., were doing a "cordon and knock" in the area to search for possible bomb-making materials. The search was in response to the sharp rise in roadside bombings that have occurred over the last three weeks on an important segment of the Army's main supply route between Baghdad and Taji.

The 39th Brigade's Company A, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, is responsible for securing a portion of the Army's valuable supply route. The unit's Soldiers patrol the long stretch of highway daily, making sure convoys are able to deliver much-needed supplies to Soldiers positioned north of Baghdad.

The job isn't easy, and more times than not it is an annoyance, due to the high volume of calls pertaining to suspicious materials on the road. "We do a lot of ghost chas-

ing," said company commander Capt. Joel Lynch, of Shreveport, La. "They report something in the road, and we go check it out."

But what's in the road isn't always clear. Sometimes the only information they receive is that there's "something" in the road. So the Soldiers jump in their vehicles, drive up and down the supply route, and look for "something" just in case.

"On one occasion, 3rd Platoon went up there to find a bag of dead chickens," Lynch said.

Over the last few weeks the calls have grown more serious and the stakes higher. With Ramadan, a month-long Muslim religious holiday in full swing, intelligence of increased threats in the unit's area has trickled down from higher levels. The Army's supply route appears to be one of insurgents' the main targets.

In the past, the Soldiers have seen very little resistance on this stretch of road they call Route Senators, but the number of roadside bombs has taken an unnervingly sharp upswing. "There have been at least four in the last week and a half," said Lynch. "Two were found, and two were detonated."

A mere two weeks prior, three vehicles from the company's 3rd Platoon were hit by improvised explosive devices. Upon moving their Humvees 300 meters down the road, they were struck yet again with a fourth IED. No one was injured.

"I had a busted fuel tank and holes in my truck," said Staff Sgt. Michael Crowsen, of Hamburg, Ark. "It rocked my gunner."



Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Burns

Two Soldiers search through haystacks looking for weapons after finding more than 8,000 rounds of ammunition in a dilapidated farmhouse.

Some of the other vehicles in the convoy lost their windows, while yet another driver had to wrestle his Humvee back to base with three flat tires.

A week prior to that incident, a member of the brigade's 2nd Battalion wasn't so fortunate. While making a supply run from Baghdad to Taji, the vehicle was hit with an IED in the same area. It killed the gunner instantly.

"We were lucky," said Crowsen. "For six months there was nothing, no contact, and then we started getting hit."

The company did a raid of the neighborhood across the street from where the platoon was struck by IEDs that same day, and it paid off. They found a man with rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades, blasting

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Inquiry launched over missing explosives in Iraq

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Multinational Force Iraq and the Iraq Survey Group are examining facts and circumstances regarding when several hundred tons of explosives went missing from the former Al-Quaqaa military facility in Iraq and where they are now, defense officials said today.

"The president wants to make sure that we get to the bottom of this," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters traveling with President Bush aboard Air Force One Oct. 25.

McClellan said the Defense Department ordered an inquiry of the missing weapons, directing Multinational Force Iraq and the Iraq Survey Group to come up with a comprehensive assessment about what happened to them.

The Iraqi government reported an estimated 350 tons of missing explosives Oct. 10 to the International Atomic Energy Agency, a U.N. monitoring group that last inventoried the facility in January 2003.

During that visit, the U.N. inspectors counted the munitions and equipment and tagged them with IAEA seals that indicate they are "dual use," or have conventional-weapons applications. These munitions were generally permitted to remain in Iraq. In contrast, "single

use" munitions with nuclear applications were destroyed or rendered harmless.

The IAEA returned to the site two months later, in March 2003, and confirmed the equipment it had tagged was still there.

However, coalition forces found no evidence of the weapons in question when they first arrived at the sprawling Al-Quaqaa facility, 30 miles south of Baghdad, about April 10, 2003, according to a defense official.

The troops searched 32 bunkers and 87 other buildings, finding some weapons and explosive material, but nothing close to the quantity reported missing by the Iraqi government, and none with IAEA seals, he said.

In an Oct. 10, 2004, letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammed J. Abbas, general director of the Iraqi Ministry of Science and Technology's Planning and Following Up Directorate, reported that 195 tons of high-melting explosive, 141 tons of rapid-detonating explosive, and 6 tons of pentaerythrite tetranitrate, another type of explosive commonly known as PETN, "registered under the IAEA custody were lost" after April 9, 2003.

Abbas blamed the loss on "the theft and looting of the governmental installations due to lack of security."

However, the defense official said there's no verification that looting ever occurred at the site. Citing lack of

accountability over the materials between the March IAEA visit and April 10, he said it's possible that regime loyalists or other groups emptied the facility before coalition forces arrived in Baghdad.

Although none of the missing material poses a nuclear-proliferation risk, the Defense Department takes the report of the missing munitions "very seriously," he said.

Since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in March 2003, coalition forces have discovered that Saddam Hussein's regime stored weapons in countless locations, including schools, mosques and hospitals, the official said. In addition, he said, the former regime forced many Iraqi citizens to hide weapons in their homes and neighborhoods.

Many Iraqis "have bravely stepped forward" to share information leading to more weapons, the official said.

The Iraq Survey Group report, more commonly known as the "Duelfer Report," named after chief weapons inspector Charles A. Duelfer, cited strong progress in identifying weapons in Iraq.

The report, released earlier this month, notes that since mid-September alone, coalition forces have reviewed and cleared more than 10,000 weapons caches and destroyed more than 240,000 tons of weapons and munitions. Another 162,000 tons of munitions await destruction.

CENTCOM News

Operation nets large weapons cache

BAGHDAD — Task Force Baghdad troops uncovered a large weapons cache during a cordon and search operation Oct. 25 in central Baghdad.

Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team confiscated more than 70 rifles, 20 pistols, 10 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 70 hand grenades, 10 anti-personnel mines and thousands of dollars in currency during a search of a suspected insurgent's residence.

One suspect was detained during the operation.

Medical clinic hit by insurgent attack

MOSUL — The newly renovated Al Furat medical clinic was damaged when insurgents hit the structure with unknown caliber explosive munitions at approximately 5:30 a.m Oct. 24. Two offices were destroyed, 10 office doors were destroyed and 60 windows were blown out due to explosions. There were no injuries in the attack.

Task Force Baghdad civil military operations specialists will conduct an assessment of the damage to the clinic, which was renovated to service tens of

thousands of residents in the Al Rashid District. A spokesman for the task force is called this attack a step backward for the residents of Al Rashid.

"This medical clinic is desperately needed in the area," said Lt. Col. James Hutton, a spokesman for the 1st Cavalry Division. "Insurgent attacks only thwart progress and prosperity for the Iraqi people."

Hutton said it remains the 1st Cavalry Division's focus to restore essential services to the people of Baghdad.

"We are determined to help bring the people of Baghdad a better, safer and healthier life," Hutton said.

The incident is under investigation.

Iraqi police receive radios in northern city

BAGHDAD — Multi-National Forces installed 17 mobile vehicle radios in

Iraqi Police Service vehicles in the northern city of Bayji in the last week as efforts to assist the Iraqi government equip its police forces continue.

The new radios, combined with previously installed "repeaters" located throughout the area give officers in the city a vehicle range of roughly 20 miles and handheld range of some four miles. The new capability provides rapid and coordinated response capability to officers in the city.

Bayji is near the larger town of Kirkuk roughly 150 miles north of Baghdad.

MNF-I raids top Zargawi leader safe haven

FALLUJAH — A safe haven in southern Fallujah, used by a member of the Abu Musab al Zargawi inner circle, was raided at 1:30 a.m. Oct. 23 as Multi-National Force-Iraq con-

tinued to put pressure on Zargawi's network, whittling away at his support base.

The individual targeted and captured today was recently assessed to be a relatively minor member of the Zargawi network, according to intelligence sources. However, due to a surge in the number of Zargawi associates who have been captured or killed by MNF-I strikes and other operations, the member had moved up to take a critical position as a Zargawi senior leader. There were also five other terrorists detained during this raid.

Multi-national forces donate 2,100 body armor vests

MOSUL — Multi-National Forces donated about \$500,000 worth of equipment to Iraqi National Guard Soldiers Oct. 25. Soldiers from the 104th, 105th and 108 ING Battalions received 2,100 body armor vests with plates.

The three battalions, stationed in the Dahuk Province, will wear the vests during patrols, raids and other security operations throughout northern Iraq.

The vests come with iron plates that are inserted inside the vests and are comparable to what U.S. Army Soldiers wear. This large-scale donation is one of several shipments of equipment that has been ordered to outfit Iraqi Soldiers.



98th takes challenge of training Iraqi Army

Sgt. 1st Class Tammy M. Jarrett
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army Reserve's 98th Division (Institutional Training) has a new mission – training the new Iraqi Army.

The 98th's commanding general, Maj. Gen. Bruce Robinson, shared how the division plans to execute the new mission during a Pentagon media roundtable Oct. 21.

The 98th Division will operate under the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, primarily training the trainer of the new Iraq army through individualized training at the basic combat training level and military skills.

The division will provide a unit-base solution for training to help the Iraq force be able to provide their own security and defense of Iraq.

The training is designed to be able to train, primarily the leadership, to take over their own military training.

"Our overall goal will be to ... build the Iraqi noncommissioned officer corps and officer corps so that they will understand the responsibilities and roles of junior officers as well as the noncommissioned officers and they will then assume the of training the Iraqi forces," Robinson said.

To prepare for the upcoming training venture, 98th Soldiers must first complete some intense training of their own, ranging from one to six weeks, depending on the job they will be doing in their area of responsibility.

Robinson said Soldiers identified for the advisory support teams will go through five to six weeks of intense maneuver, convoy operations and train-the-trainer training at Camp Allberry, Ind. Soldiers assigned to support staff or logistics operations will go through one or two weeks of training at Fort Bliss.

All Soldiers will be certified prior to deployment and will receive an additional five to seven days of training once in country.

The mission at that time is to provide advisory assistance to the Iraqi armed forces, Robinson said. This will be in the form of leadership development and mentorship, and military occupational skills as the needs of the new Iraqi army dictates.

Some Soldiers are already in country with the remaining schedule to arrive in country in late November or early December.

Headed by the 98th's assistant division commander for operations, Brig. Gen. Richard Sherlock, the 700-plus Soldiers will set up a headquarters staff. AST officers and NCOs will then be augmented into the current Iraqi forces and began training the Iraqi army. Overtime units will be built, trained, equipped, and tested through different operational exercises.

The 98th Soldiers will provide training for one year and then if necessary, turn the mission over to the 80th Division (Institutional Training) headquartered in Richmond, Va.

Disability Awareness Month: Soldiers face challenges

John A. Emmerly

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers can become disabled at any time and instantly face great challenges, one who knows told a crowd in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes Oct. 19.

Spc. Nicola Harvey related her experiences as a Soldier who became disabled in Iraq as she participated in the Army's 2004 Disability Employment Awareness Month event. The program was sponsored by the Army's Office of the Administrative Assistant, Equal Employment Opportunity.

The theme of the program was "You're hired! Success knows no limitations." Speakers urged those in attendance to focus on the abilities of potential employees, not their disabilities.

A Soldier's experience: making it real.

Harvey was deployed to Iraq with the New Jersey National Guard's 253rd Transportation Company when she was injured Aug. 5, 2003, in Baugi. An explosion shattered her truck's windshield and filled the cabin with debris.

Her injuries included cuts on her body, a cut cornea and glass fragments in her eyes, she said. She learned a month later that pieces of glass will remain in her eyes and she received the Purple Heart Jan. 28.

Harvey said she was one of the lucky few who came home right away and found a job. A lot of the Soldiers coming home are having problems, she said, and don't know about the programs available to them.

Benefits of hiring employees with disabilities.

"Companies that include people with disabilities in their diversity programs increase their competitive advantage," said guest speaker Jody Wildy, diversity program manager, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor.

"When workers with disabilities are hired employers gain a qualified, stable and diverse workforce; people with disabilities get jobs, and society saves money that previously funded public benefits and services for people with disabilities," said Wildy, who lost her legs in a drunk driving accident.

The healthcare, manufacturing and construction industries are already reporting difficulty finding skilled workers, she said.

Workers with disabilities represent a large pool of potential applicants, said Sheila Young, disability program manager,



John A. Emmerly

Spc. Nicola Harvey talks about the injuries she received, particularly to her eyes, while riding in a convoy that came under attack last year in Baugi, Iraq. Harvey, a member of the 253rd Transportation Company of the New Jersey National Guard, was a guest speaker at Disability Employment Awareness 2004 event Oct. 19 in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

Directorate of Equal Employment Opportunity.

Enduring problems — employment and mindset.

Unfortunately, a large number of individuals with disabilities are unemployed or underemployed despite their desires to work and make a contribution, Wildy said. People with disabilities still experience discrimination.

The most difficult barrier to overcome, aside from the physical and systemic barriers, is the attitudes people carry regarding people with disabilities, Wildy said. People think they know what is best for people with disabilities and what they can and can't do.

"When people look at me, they look at what I can't do rather than what I can do,"

said Wildy.

If she and a person without a disability both applied for the same position and both applicants have the same experience, whom do you think they are going to hire, asked Wildy. They are going to hire the person without the disabilities because of silly mindsets like disabled people are more prone to accidents or that they will cost more. In fact, it costs less than \$500 to provide an accommodation for a person with a disability.

Pentagon Chaplain Col. Ralph Benson summed up the feeling and general message of the program during the ceremony's invocation. He said it is important to celebrate our physical limitations and see in our disabilities the power of hope and determination that can be instilled in a

workplace and a community that respects each person for the depth of their character and not blinded by the handicap that can be seen.

More information on Veteran's Disability Resources can be found at www.va.gov.

Information on the Job Accommodations Network, the ADA and small businesses can be found at www.jan.wvu.edu.

Employment Assistance Referral Network can be found at www.earnworks.com. It connects employers to employment service providers who have direct access to candidates with disabilities.

Disability related information available throughout the federal government can be found at www.disabilityinfo.gov.

It's time to

Fall Back

*Daylight-saving time begins Sunday,
October 31 at 1:00 a.m.*

*Don't forget to set your
clock back an hour
Saturday night!*



GHOSTS

from page 13A

caps and other bomb-making materials.

Still, the IEDs have continued, Which led to the cordon-and-knock mission.

After knocking on a large wooden door, Soldiers stood patiently in the dark. Lights flickered on in the house, and a man dressed in traditional Arabic garb answered. "We need to search your house," said Army Sgt. Thomas Thornhill, of Monticello, Ark., in Arabic.

Soldiers quickly moved past the doorway and began to look through drawers and closets. While they searched the residence, Thornhill asked the man of the house if he owned any weapons. The owner motioned to his wife, and she hurriedly retrieved an AK-47 assault rifle from a sprawling wardrobe cabinet that ran the length of the bedroom wall.

Thornhill, an infantryman, has taken on the role of Arabic speaker for his team when an interpreter isn't available. He had no real knowledge of the language before he deployed but vowed to learn as much as he could while in Iraq. "I didn't want to sit here and just vegetate," said Thornhill. "I wanted to learn something."

His newly acquired language skills have become a great asset in searching houses. "If you try to holler at (the Iraqis) in English, they don't know what you're saying," said Thornhill. "I've learned that if you use basic Arabic terms, they're more comfortable with you. If nothing else, they are surprised enough to let you search."

A short time later the man pointed at his wristwatch irritably and raised his arms in the air questioning. He then turned to his wife and began speaking in a frenzied, animated manner. "He wants to know why you search our house," said the woman to Thornhill in broken English.

"Bombs," said Thornhill. "Tell him there have been bombs and explosions on the road not far from here that are killing American Soldiers and Iraqi citizens."

The Soldiers finished their search, thanked the couple for their cooperation, returned the AK-47, and left. Iraqi families are allowed by law to have one AK- 47 in the house for protection.

The area the Soldiers were searching is generally a peaceful place, but in an effort to deter terrorist activity, the company goes on "fishing expeditions" in neighborhoods surrounding their supply route to search for anything suspect. "We're trying to beat him (the enemy) to the punch and knock out some of those stockpiles," said Lynch.

The Soldiers moved to another house and began the knocking process all over again. Here there were no flickering lights and no answer. After a few moments they turned the doorknob only to discover what they had already thought, it was locked. As a last resort, they decided to kick in the door.

Spc. Loran Smith, 21, of Tillar, Ark., gave a running kick at the rusted metal door. His foot collided with a heavy thud leaving a dent but the door didn't open. "Kick it at the hinges," yelled a Soldier in the darkness.

After the first month and a half in Iraq, the company, for the most part, quit kicking in doors in order to gain more cooperation. "We'll just be polite and ask you to open your door," said Smith. "But if you don't [open your door], as a



Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Burns

Army Sgt. Thomas Thornhill, left, and Sgt. Josh Walker check out a shotgun found in an Iraqi house. Spc. Loran Smith (in the back) moves up the stairs to search the second level of the house.

last resort, we'll kick it down."

Smith took another running kick at the door, but this time at the hinges. The old metal door came off, along with the frame, as dust bellowed up in the air from the force of the blow. Once the Soldiers moved in, they found the house abandoned. No one was living there, but they continued the search for weapons.

Since their arrival seven months ago, the Soldiers have learned an intricate tap dance in dealing with Arab culture. They have changed many of their tactics to accommodate local sensitivities and avoid problems within the tribal communities. For example, the Soldiers have quit handcuffing detainees in front of relatives and refrain from using head sacks or blindfolds. These tactics seemed to cause more of problems than they momentarily solved.

"Here, if you disrespect a man in front of his family, his children, his wife, ... you've damaged his honor," said Thornhill. "More than likely he belongs to a tribe or large family. They'll want revenge and they'll kill American Soldiers."

Soldiers quietly moved through a fenced-in dirt yard, filing past a small Iraqi boy and into his house, where other Soldiers are already awaiting their arrival.

After a marathon of searching houses, the Soldiers were meeting up with another team that started their search on the other side of the neighborhood. There were over 35 houses to search, so the two teams split from opposite ends

to rally in the middle.

In the house, the waiting Soldiers had found over 8,000 rounds of ammunition, mostly still boxed. They also found two batteries for American single-channel ground-to-air radio systems, commonly called SINCGARS.

Lynch pulled aside the individuals of the house one by one and questioned them with the help of an interpreter. "They said they got the batteries after the war," said Lynch. "They all pretty much have the same story."

SINCGARS batteries can be thrown away if they are no longer any good. So the story was plausible.

While Soldiers dug through haystacks looking for weapons in the back of the dilapidated house, Lynch continued his questioning to see what information he could get about the ammunition and possible terrorist activity in the area.

The sun had broken through the sky, and the cover of darkness was now gone. On the move since 2 a.m., it was now time for the unit to return to base for a small breakfast, followed by their patrol of the main supply route.

Their cordon-and-knock mission had netted eight pistols, 18 AK-47's, four Russian military carbines, four Russian-made submachine guns, and over 8,000 rounds of ammunition, but no IED-making materials.

Said Smith, "The best part for me is knowing that if we find anything, we know it won't kill another American Soldier."